

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No claim amendments are presented herein.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method of processing a fluid, comprising:  
  
atomizing said fluid in a supercritical fluid medium to dissolve at least one component in the fluid to be processed;  
  
applying thermal energy to said fluid;  
  
allowing undissolved components to settle; and  
  
separating said dissolved components from said supercritical fluid.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein said atomization is accomplished by dynamic atomization.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said method additionally comprises the step of utilizing jet spray orifices during said atomization step.
4. **(Cancelled)**
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said method additionally comprises the step of adding sonic energy during said atomization step.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy is applied after atomizing said fluid in the supercritical fluid.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy is applied to the fluid to be processed before atomizing said fluid in the supercritical fluid.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the supercritical fluid is selected from a group consisting of CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, NH<sub>3</sub>, C H<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub> H<sub>6</sub>, C<sub>3</sub> H<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>4</sub> H<sub>10</sub>, C<sub>5</sub> H<sub>12</sub>, SF<sub>6</sub>, Xe, CCl<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O.

9. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising the step of adding a modifier to enhance the solubility of the supercritical fluids.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, additional comprising the step of recycling said supercritical fluid.

11. **(Withdrawn)**

12. **(Withdrawn)**

13. **(Withdrawn)**

14. **(Withdrawn)**

15. **(Withdrawn)**

16. **(Withdrawn)**

17. **(Withdrawn)**

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18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Withdrawn)

24. (Withdrawn)

25. (Withdrawn)

26. (Withdrawn)